Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a bioavailable sustained release ~~oral dosage form~~ tablet comprising:

combining ~~a sustained release excipient with a~~ (i) a medicament in amorphous form, ~~and~~ (ii) a wetting agent and ~~then drying and milling the resulting combined composition and said~~ (iii) a sustained release excipient ~~comprises~~ to obtain a mixture; said sustained release excipient comprising a gelling agent, an ionizable gel strength enhancing agent, and an inert diluent, the ratio of inert diluent to gelling agent being from about 1:8 to about 8:1, said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent increasing the gel strength of a gel formed when said solid dosage form is exposed to environmental fluid, and said gelling agent ~~comprises~~ comprising xanthan gum and locust bean gum ~~and said locust bean gum being~~ in a ratio of from about 1:3 to about 3:1;

~~wherein the amorphous form of said medicament affects the bioavailability of said oral dosage form;~~

thereafter drying and milling said mixture to obtain a sustained release tablet;

applying a support platform to said tablet;

and forming said sustained release product into orally administrable unit doses.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the medicament has an aqueous solubility of less than 10 g/liter.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is polyethylene glycol.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of nifedipine, nimodipine, nivadipine, nitrendipine, nisolidipine, niludipine,

nicardipine and felodipine.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said medicament is nifedipine.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the polyethylene glycol is mixed with water to form a polyethylene glycol-water slurry prior to the combination of the medicament with the excipient.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising adding an amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophobic material effective to slow the hydration of the gelling agent when said solid dosage form is exposed to gastrointestinal fluid. ~~medicament, gelling agent, ionizable gel strength enhancing agent and inert diluent are combined by dry blending~~

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein said mixture of ~~medicament~~, gelling agent, ionizable gel strength enhancing agent, hydrophobic material and inert diluent are premanufactured as a sustained release excipient.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~8~~ 7, wherein said hydrophobic material is added to the sustained release excipient prior to combining ~~wherein cellulose is added to the wetting agent before the addition of~~ the medicament, ~~gelling agent, ionizable gel enhancing agent and inert diluent~~ wetting agent, and sustained release excipient.

Claim 11 -13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~10~~ 7, wherein said ~~cellulose~~ hydrophobic material is selected from the group consisting of ~~hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose and mixtures of any of the foregoing~~ alkylcellulose, hydrophobic cellulosic materials, polymers or copolymers derived from acrylic or methacrylic acid esters, copolymers of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters, zein, waxes,

shellac, and hydrogenated vegetable oils.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of monovalent, divalent and multivalent organic or inorganic salts and mixture thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said ionizable gel strength enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of ~~comprises~~ an alkali metal, alkali metal chloride, alkali metal borate, alkali metal bromide alkali metal citrate, alkali metal acetate, alkali metal lactate, alkaline earth metal sulfate, alkaline earth metal chloride, alkaline earth metal borate, alkaline earth metal bromide, alkaline earth metal citrate, alkaline earth metal acetate, alkaline earth metal lactate and mixtures thereof ~~or an alkaline earth metal sulfate, chloride, borate, bromide, citrate, acetate or lactate~~.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of treating a patient comprising administering a ~~dosage form~~ tablet prepared according to claim 1, to a patient in need of antihypertensive treatment.

Claim 19. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said support platform comprises a polymeric material insoluble in aqueous liquids.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 19, wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of derivatives of acrylic acid, celluloses and derivatives thereof, polyvinylalcohols, and the like.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein said polymeric material is ethylcellulose.

Claim 22. (New): The method of claim 19, wherein said support platform is compression coated onto part of a surface of said tablet.

Claim 23. (New): The method of claim 22, wherein said support platform has a thickness of about 2mm.

Claim 24. (New): The method of claim 19, wherein said polymeric material is spray dried onto part of the surface of said tablet.

Claim 25. (New): The method of claim 19, wherein said tablet is immersed in a solution of a polymeric material to form said support platform.

Claim 26. (New): The method of claim 24, wherein said support platform has a thickness of

about 10μm.

Claim 27. (New): The method of claim 25, wherein said support platform has a thickness of about 10μm.

Claim 28. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the ratio of said medicament to said gelling agent is from about 1:3 to about 1:8.

Claim 29. (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophobic material is included in the sustained release excipient in an amount from about 1 to about 20 percent by weight.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the hydrophobic material is ethyl cellulose.